



# SAINT NINIAN CATHEDRAL PARISH

Antigonish, Nova Scotia

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**PARISH OFFICE:**

Monday-Friday: 9AM - 12PM  
121 St. Ninian St., Antigonish NS  
P.O. Box 1628  
(902) 863-2338

**MASS TIMES**

Tue-Fri: 9:00AM  
Saturday: 4:00PM  
Sunday: 8:30AM and 10:30AM

**CONFESSIONS:**

Saturdays: 3:15PM - 3:45PM

**BAPTISMS:**

Please contact Leonarda MacNeil, ofs at  
[religioused@saintninian.ca](mailto:religioused@saintninian.ca)

**MARRIAGES:**

Please contact Fr. Daniel MacLennan at  
[pastor@saintninian.ca](mailto:pastor@saintninian.ca)

## Our Mission Statement

"St. Ninian Cathedral is the Episcopal Seat for the Diocese of Antigonish, Nova Scotia. We humbly welcome all who wish to nurture their faith through sharing the Word, breaking the Bread, and celebrating God's love for us. Guided by the Holy Spirit, our mission is to worship and serve God through prayer and service to God's people, and by striving to live our lives in the likeness and image of God."



# SAINT NINIAN CATHEDRAL PARISH

## 4th Sunday of Advent December 18th, 2022

### COLLECTION INFORMATION

<b>December 11th</b>	
Sunday Envelopes	\$ 8,420.00
Loose Money	\$ 935.35
Total Collection	<u>\$ 9,355.35</u>

<b>Other</b>	
Missals:	\$ 115.00
Candles:	\$ 101.65
Memorial Bows:	\$ 1,710.00
Christmas Offering:	\$ 510.00
C.A.R.E.:	\$ 200.00
Cozy Café:	\$ 25.00

# of Envelopes Received 194

#### **Pre-Authorized Debit:**

For the month of December 2022, we will receive 96 donations totaling \$8,656.00 equaling \$2,164.00 weekly.

#### **Online Donations:**

For the month of November 2022, we have received \$3,665.00 through Canada Helps. So far, this tool has allowed us to receive 52 donations totalling over \$10,200.00 year-to-date.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Grade 2 (1<sup>st</sup> Communion); Grades 3-6**

Continues in January. Date pending

**Children's Liturgy:**

Sunday Mass at 10:30AM.

### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

**Christmas Eve Saturday, Dec. 24th:** 4:00PM and 9:00PM  
(Carols starting at 8:30PM)

**Christmas Eve Saturday, Dec. 24th (StFX Chapel):** 6PM

**Christmas Day Sunday, Dec. 25th:**  
8:30AM and 10:30AM

### SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF...

+ Theresa Brophy, Mulgrave

### PRE-AUTHORIZED DEBIT SIGNUP

The beginning of a new year is the perfect time to consider how you contribute to your parish. Pre-Authorized Debit is a worry-free, reliable way to contribute to Saint Ninian Cathedral. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to sign up for this method of contribution!

### MEMORIAL BOWS

Again this year we will be placing two trees in the sanctuary that will be decorated with memorial bows bearing the names of those who have died. Donations should be placed in an enveloped marked "memorial bows" and placed in the Sunday Collection. Any monies received will go towards the Saint Ninian Parish Foundation.

### C.A.R.E. COMMITTEE NEWS

The C.A.R.E. committee is so happy to announce we have submitted the application to bring a young Afghan woman to safety. Currently in Pakistan, she is in great danger of being deported back to Afghanistan where she will be killed by the Taliban for standing up for human rights and education for women. The committee has also completed and submitted the application to bring a man and his child to safety in Canada. They are both currently in a refugee camp in Greece.

For more information on the work of this committee, contact Sue O'Brien (902 863 1479) or Manoela Strehl (902 549 2838)

### ADDITIONAL CONFESSION TIMES WITH VISITING PRIESTS

Main Church (confessionals)  
Dec. 17th from 10am to 1pm;  
Dec. 21st from 5pm to 7pm

### 2023 PARISH ENVELOPES

The 2023 Parish Envelopes are now ready for pick up at the Parish Office. For those who wish to help with the distribution of the envelopes, please contact the parish office.

### WELCOME TO THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Wren Leanne MacGillivray, daughter of Nathan and Carolyn  
Campbell Christopher Harmes, son of Andrew & Sarah  
Navy Anne Vigneau-Jordan, daughter of Amanda  
Congratulations to all !

## REFLECTION

*As Christmas approaches, people's hopes soar.*

*However, the substance of these hopes is often dictated by commercial interests.*

*Little wonder, then, that when the sun goes down on Christmas Day,  
many feel disappointed.*

*Those who pin their hopes on what the merchants promise  
will always be disappointed, not because they promise too little,  
but too much—of the wrong thing.*

*What our hearts long for is a taste of what the angels announced to the shepherds:*

*'Behold, I bring news of a great joy;  
today a saviour has been born to you.'  
This joy is the real hope of Christmas.  
Let us open our hearts to receive it.*

### NATIVITY PAGEANT AT CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS

Youth and young children are invited to take part in the pageant during Mass. Family members can assist wee ones.  
Email Leonarda at [religioused@saintninian.ca](mailto:religioused@saintninian.ca) to volunteer.

### SAINT NINIAN CATHEDRAL CONCERT SERIES: HOPE IS A STAR DECEMBER 17TH, 7PM SAINT NINIAN CATHEDRAL

We are very excited to announce the return of the Saint Ninian Cathedral Concert Series. This year, we will be celebrating Christmas through music in "Hope is a Star." The Saint Ninian Choir will be featured, along with the Antigonish Choral Assemblé, Nova Brass, and more. Admission by donation. **Proceeds will go towards Antigonish Affordable Housing program. East Coast Credit Union has generously agreed to match donations up to \$2,000.**

### KOC CHRISTMAS WREATHS

The Knights of Columbus, Council 1105 are selling Christmas wreaths again this year. The prices are \$15 for undecorated and \$20 for decorated. To order, you can call Kenny at 902-870-3354.

### WINTER STORM ADVISOR

In the event of a storm, the parish office will be closed in accordance to the Strait Regional School Board's decision. Please watch attentively as morning masses will also be cancelled in the event of school closures or delayed opening.

### FUND RAISING INITIATIVE—ORANGE BARRELS

We have now established ourselves in the Antigonish community with the Antigonish Family and Children Services!

We are in need of community help in order to continue with the project of collecting recyclables. We would like to thank everyone for their support on helping raise money for our families in need.

### BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Any announcements you would like included in our parish bulletin? Please make sure to email [admin@sainrninian.ca](mailto:admin@sainrninian.ca) with your announcement before 5PM on Thursdays. Thank you!

### 2023 CALENDAR OF SAINTS AND ANGELS

Calendars are available for purchase at the Parish Office.  
Calendars are also available at 5 cents -\$1.00.

### "THE EUCHARIST IS THE SOURCE AND CENTRE OF OUR FAITH"

The greatest treasure that Jesus left us is the treasure of the Eucharist.

John 6-54 "Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life and I shall raise him up on the last day."

The following text is taken from the spiritual diary of Elizabeth Kindlemann. Imprimatur number 494-4/2009.

Jesus speaks... "when receiving Holy Communion, look deeply into your soul and feel the effects My Precious Blood produces within you. Do not be insensitive to that! It is not by habit that you should come to My table, but rather propelled by a love that will be fuelled as it touches Mine, and which through Me, and in union with you, will burn away the sins of your soul..."

### CHRISTMAS CHEERS PROGRAM 2022

As the Christmas season approaches, members of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, rededicate ourselves to serve our community with love, respect, justice, and joy. And, once again, we appeal to you, the parishioners of Saint Ninian Parish, for support for our annual Christmas Cheers Program. All financial donations or gift cards will gratefully be accepted. Beautiful cards acknowledging gifts made in memory of a loved one are available at the Parish Office. Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or greater.

### SPOTLIGHT ON CWL

The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.

A BIG thank you to all the wonderful ladies who came to the Welcome Home tea on Sunday. It was an enjoyable start to a new beginning for our organization in this parish.

We ask you to remember to submit your membership dues (\$35) before the end of the year if you haven't done so already. Envelopes are available at the back of the church.

Membership Gift Certificates are a timely and appreciated Christmas gift for your wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, or neighbor. Please call Irene Lefort at (902) 863-5579 or Ann at (902) 863-2430.

Best wishes to everyone for a blessed and enjoyable Christmas and New Year filled with many blessings.

# *Christmas Greetings from Bishop Kirkpatrick*

Given our Atlantic coastline, we all know about lighthouses. A lighthouse is designed to emit light to serve as a beacon for navigational aid, for maritime pilots at sea or on inland waterways. Lighthouses mark dangerous coastlines, hazardous shoals, reefs, rocks, and safe entries to harbours. I was inspired to write this reflection after learning of the memorial lobster trap Christmas tree tradition, made up of lobster traps with buoys and lights with a lighthouse on top. The buoys bear the names of people lost at sea. It is a memorial tree for all who did not return home. The lighthouse placed on top is to guide them home.

A lighthouse provides direction through the rough seas to the harbour of safe waters and home. We have lived through so many rough days together with Covid and most recently with the wind and rain of tropical storm Fiona and all the havoc that has followed. When we think of this image of the lighthouse, we might think of the bright star of Bethlehem guiding the pilgrims to the Christ-child. They too lived amid a sea of economic and political turmoil. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shone." These words from the prophet Isaiah reverberate during our celebration of the Christmas Season. There are so many concerns today: the illness or death of loved ones; rising costs of gas, food and everything essential; homelessness and food insecurity; access to medical care and viruses that continue to affect us; war and conflicts around the globe and millions of refugees with no place to call home; intergenerational trauma through residential schools; the future of our church as discernment continues for the upcoming Synod; and in general trying to carry on in faith amid so many issues. What are we to do?

We have every reason to hope that brighter and better days are ahead. The Christmas Season celebrates the birth of the Lord Jesus and the ways he manifested the presence of God among us. The Christmas Season reminds us of the goodness of our God and the people around us who are guided by God's love and concern for all people. This Christmas Season brings out the best in people who try to brighten the lives of others. Yes, it is a season filled with partying and buying but it is also a season filled with sharing. This Christmas Season is highlighted by our neighbourly concern, generosity, and unselfish love. Such love is a light that pierces the darkness of our world. Such love is prompted and celebrated. God sent us the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ to be the Light of the World to guide and direct us. As we celebrate the coming of that Light, we become a light for others. When we live our faith we become a light to our world. Our faith does not free us from problems and hardships, but enables us to find peace, to persevere, and to hope because we know we are not alone. Faith assures us that God is with us in our struggles, and that the love of God and the peace that Jesus promised are ours for the asking. The lighthouse calls us to look to him for direction, especially amid turbulent waters. He will guide and direct us to a safe harbour and peaceful waters. He will guide us home.

May you have a peaceful Christmas, filled with love and joy.

**Fraternally,**  
+ *Wayne Kirkpatrick*  
**Bishop of Antigonish**